

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /084 W
----- 045122

R 131240Z JUN 75 ZEL

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4883

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAGS AND SUBJECT LINES)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: RADIO ETHIOPIA REPORT ON EXECUTIONS

REF: ADDIS 6819

REFERENCED TELEGRAM REPORTED THAT SIX PEOPLE WERE EXECUTED BY PMAC. THERE FOLLOWS A GISRING OF RADIO ETHIOPIA'S ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THESE EXECUTIONS (TRANSLATION BY FSL):

QUOTE: SIX PERSONS WERE EXECUTED BY THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE FOLLOWING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES:

1. TOBIA YITNA-GASHAW - AS A LEADER OF BANDITS IN THE MENZ AND GESHO AWRAJA (SHOA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION) SINCE DECEMBER 1974, TOBIA HAS COMMITTED MANY CRIMES, INCLUDING THE WOUNDING OF A
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TELECOMMUNICATIONS DRIVER, TEFAYE TEFALDET, AND KILLING AN

INNOCENT CIVILIAN, TADESSE.

2. AND 3. KIFLE MOGUS AND WORKU SEYOUM - BOTH MEN OPPOSED THE PRESENT POPULAR MOVEMENT AND THE LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION. THESE PERSONS DISGUISED THEMSELVES IN ARMED FORCES/BODY GUARD UNIFORMS, HIRED A LAND ROVER AND VOLKSWAGON, USED FALSE ARMED FORCES/POLICE LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTIMIDATING MANY PEOPLE TO GIVE THEM MONEY.

4. ZERU HAILE - HE COLLABORATED WITH THE LATE BEKELE SEYOUM, WHO WAS KILLED BY SECURITY POLICE. FROM DECEMBER 1974 TO FEBRUARY 1975, ZERU WAS SPREADING ANTI-PMAC PROPAGANDA BY PRINTING FALSE PAMPHLETS. THROUGH HIS PROPAGANDA, HE WAS TRYING TO RELEASE THE FORMER EMPEROR AND RESTORE THE OLD OPPRESSIVE FEUDAL REGIME.

5. IDRIS KIAR ABDULKADIR - HE WAS A LEADER OF THE SO-CALLED ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT BASED IN ITALY AND WAS ARRESTED BY SECURITY AT THE BOLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MARCH 23, 1975 WHEN HE TRIED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY UNDER A FALSE ETHIOPIAN PASSPORT. UPON HIS ARREST, EVIDENCE WAS FOUND, INCLUDING A MILITARY UNIFORM, THAT PROVED HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE "BANDITS"

6. PRIVATE GETACHEW FANTA - A MEMBER OF THE BODY GUARD, GETACHEW WAS ARRESTED FOR SPREADING FALSE RUMORS SO THAT THE DIFFERENT MILITARY FACTIONS WOULD FIGHT EACH OTHER. HE WAS ALSO CHARGED WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION. END QUOTE. END QUOTE.

COMMENT: WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE SIX. LOCAL OBSERVERS ARE VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUSLY OF THE VIEW THAT THESE MEN WERE EXECUTED BY A DIRG, WIDELY PERCEIVED AS STEADILY LOOSING CONTROL OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY, AS A WARNING TO WOULD BE OPPONENTS. WE CONSIDER THIS A REASONABLE INTERPRETATION. WE WOULD CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT UPCOUNTRY TURBULENCE SHOULD NOT BE EQUATED WITH ANY LOOSENING OF THE DIRG'S GRIP ON THE LEVERS OF POWER. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY COORDINATED OPPOSITION, AND PROVIDING ESPECIALLY THAT THE DIRG'S DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MILITARY UNITS REMAINS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIALE, ETHIOPIA'S DIRG MAY WELL MAINTAIN ITSELF IN OFFICE FOR SOME TIME DESPITE THE LIMITS TO ITS ABILITY TO CONTROL EVENTS IN THE PROVINCES.

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